

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV FLASH
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM FLASH
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT FLASH
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, MILI, PORG, UNSC, LE, IS

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON

REFS: BEIRUT 4478, BEIRUT 4473, JERUSALEM 2140,
TEL AVIV 9934

1. CONFIRMING VARIOUS SECURE VOICE TELECONS BETWEEN
DEPARTMENT AND JERUSALEM, TEL AVIV AND BEIRUT (AND FAILURE
LAST EFFORT TO GET TEL AVIV ON SECURE PHONE), FOLLOWING
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UNDERSTANDING HAS BEEN DEVELOPED:

-- THERE IS SOME DANGER OF CONFUSION IF CONCEPTS AND
POSITIONS ARE EXCHANGED BETWEEN THE LEBANESE AND ISRAELI
GOVERNMENTS WHILE UNIFIL NEGOTIATORS AT THE SAME
TIME ARE CONDUCTING NEGOTIATIONS ON THE GROUND IN SOUTHERN
LEBANON. A SITUATION COULD DEVELOP UNDER WHICH UNIFIL,

HADDAD, THE LEBANESE ARMY UNIT, AND THE IDF COME TO SOME KIND OF UNDERSTANDING, EVEN WITH A LOT OF FUZZY EDGES. CONSEQUENTLY, WE SHOULD WAIT TO SEE HOW THESE ON-THE-GROUND NEGOTIATIONS WORK OUT.

-- QUESTION OF ACTUAL ROUTE TO BE TAKEN IS AN EXAMPLE WHERE U.S. WILL HAVE TO BE PARTICULARLY CAREFUL IN WHAT WE SAY, IF ANYTHING. THE ISRAELIS BUILT A LOT OF NEW ROADS IN THIS AREA, WHICH MOST AVAILABLE MAPS FAIL TO REFLECT. THERE MAY BE PRACTICAL SOLUTION WHICH PEOPLE FAMILIAR WITH THESE ROADS AND TERRAIN COULD NEGOTIATE.

-- IN ACCORD WITH THIS UNDERSTANDING, AMBASSADOR LEWIS SHOULD NOT RPT NOT TRANSMIT SUGGESTED FULL OUTLINE OF AGREEMENT CONTAINED PARA 4 (A)(B)(C) OF BEIRUT 4473. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WAS SOME ADVANCE IN BOUTROS' WILLINGNESS TO ARGUE WITH HIS COLLEAGUES RE PUTTING HADDAD ISSUE IN ICE BOX. THEREFORE, BELIEVE AMBASSADOR LEWIS SHOULD TRANSMIT TO WEIZMAN PRIORITY GOL REQUEST TO GOI CONTAINED PENULTIMATE SENTENCE OF PARA 3, EVEN IF CHANCES ARE POOR THAT ANY ISRAELI ANSWER--BY ITSELF-- WILL PROVIDE ADEQUATE BASIS FOR A DEAL. (IF, HOWEVER, ISRAELI RESPONSE AVOIDED CODEWORDS ABOUT REIN-STATEMENT OF POSITION OR ANNULMENT OF ORDERS, AND TALKED INSTEAD OF LEAVING HADDAD WHERE HE IS FOR TIME BEING
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UNTIL A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE UNDERSTANDING IS WORKED OUT, SOMETHING MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. SEE PARA 2 BELOW IN THIS CONNECTION.)

-- AMBASSADOR LEWIS MIGHT GO ON TO SAY THAT BOUTROS HAD PUT FORWARD SOME IDEAS FOR BASIS OF AGREEMENT ON MOVEMENT OF THE LEBANESE ARMY UNIT, INCLUDING SIZE OF INDIVIDUAL CONTINGENTS MOVING THROUGH BOTTLENECK AND POSSIBLE ROUTE, BUT THAT WE WERE GOING BACK TO HIM TO SUGGEST THAT THESE MATTERS BE LEFT TO THE NEGOTIATORS ON THE SPOT WITH UNIFIL. ISRAELIS SHOULD KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT BOUTROS IS PREPARED TO INCLUDE IN AGREEMENT ASSURANCE THAT "QUESTION OF MAJOR HADDAD'S STATUS WILL BE SET ASIDE FOR TIME BEING" (ORIGINAL POINT C).

-- NOTHING FURTHER SHOULD BE SAID TO THE ISRAELIS ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE ORIGINAL LEBANESE OFFER TO HADDAD AND WHETHER THE OFFER MIGHT BE STILL OPEN. IF THE ORIGINAL OFFER INCORPORATED AN UNDERSTANDING THAT HADDAD MIGHT BE ABLE TO RETURN PERMANENTLY TO LEBANON AFTER A COOLING-OFF PERIOD, THAT UNDERSTANDING MAY NO LONGER BE FEASIBLE, AND WE ARE IN DANGER OF MUDDYING THE WATERS. AGAIN, A FACE-

TO-FACE MEETING BETWEEN THE LEBANESE UNIT COMMANDER, COL. SAAD, AND HADDAD, WITHOUT ISRAELIS PRESENT, MIGHT LEAD TO A DEAL (SEE JERUSALEM 2140).

2. AMBASSADOR PARKER: YOU SAID THAT A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY, WHILE HE IS IN ISRAEL, TO BOUTROS MIGHT GET US OVER THE HUMP WITH THE LEBANESE. PLEASE, THEREFORE, SEND PROPOSED WORDING OF MESSAGE WHICH TAKES INTO ACCOUNT LEBANESE SUSCEPTIBILITIES AND LIKELY ISRAELI POSITION, AND WHICH YOU THINK MIGHT DO THE TRICK.

3. AMBASSADOR PARKER WILL BE SEEING BOUTROS FOR LUNCH ON SUNDAY AND SARKIS ON MONDAY. VANCE

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